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PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING NO. R2000-1/42

POSTAL RATE COMMISSION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA POSTAL RATE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R2000-1

RULING GRANTING POSTAL SERVICE PROCEDURAL MOTION SEEKING MORE TIME TO RESPOND TO NNA MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSES TO NNA/USPS-T5-36 AND 39 (WITNESS HUNTER)

(Issued April 17, 2000)

This ruling grants the Postal Service's motion for a brief extension of time — to Tuesday, April 25, 2000 — to respond to the motion of the National Newspaper Association (NNA) to compel responses to interrogatories NNA/USPS-T5-36 and 39, directed to witness Hunter. Motion of the United States Postal Service for Extension of Time to File Response to Motion to Compel, April 13, 2000. (Postal Service Motion.)

The Service notes that the interrogatories in issue, which are the subject of a partial objection and a partial answer, seek certain information for each year as far back as 1986. Postal Service Motion at 1. It further states that it now expects that witness Hunter will be able to identify information and provide an assessment of the expense and burden of producing it by Friday, April 21, 2000. Id.

The Service says the brief extension will allow an opportunity to discuss these facts with opposing counsel, and may allow a mutually satisfactory arrangement to be reached. In that event, the Service says the motion to compel and the need for a response to it would be rendered moot. Id.

It appears that granting the Service's motion, which is not opposed by NNA, will allow progress toward resolution of outstanding issues. I appreciate the parties' cooperation in working toward a mutually beneficial outcome. Accordingly, the motion is granted.

RULING

The April 13, 2000 Motion of United States Postal Service for Extension of Time to File Response to [NNA] Motion to Compel [Responses to NNA/USPS-T5-36 and 39] is granted. The new date for a response is Tuesday, April 25, 2000.

Edward J. Gleiman

Presiding Officer